



Tennessee Department of Safety

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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

For Motorcycle Riders:

- *Always wear a helmet.*
The helmet is the most important piece of equipment. Properly fitting safety helmets save lives by reducing the extent of head injuries in the event of a crash. Make sure the helmet fits comfortably, snugly and is fastened for the ride. Also, look for the DOT label on the helmet. That certifies the helmet conforms to the federal standard.
- *Get proper training and keep going to training classes annually.*
This helps you know all the traffic laws in your community.
- *Avoid tailgating and riding between lanes of slow moving or stopped traffic.*
- *Be careful and aware at intersections, where most motorcycle-vehicle collisions occur.*
- *Don't hang out in the "No-Zone."*
Stay visible to other motorists at all times by avoiding riding an automobile's blind spot.
- *Be cautious when riding in inclement weather, on slippery surfaces or when encountering obstacles on the roadway.*
- *Don't Drink and Ride!*
Riding a motorcycle requires more skill and coordination to operate than a car.
- *Ride within your limits.*
Don't ride faster/longer than your abilities allow.
- *Get licensed.*
Ride legally with certification from the Department of Safety.



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS

For Drivers of Other Vehicles:

- *Be courteous and aware of motorcycles around you, especially at intersections.*
Research shows two-thirds of the collisions between cars and motorcycles occur when drivers of cars turn in front of the cyclists.
- *Remember that motorcycle riding requires frequent lane movements to adjust to changing road and traffic conditions.*
- *Motorcyclists have the right to use of the full lane.*
Cyclists often need the full lane to respond to hazards such as potholes.
- *Never try to share the lane with a motorcycle, and always respect the cycle's space and position in traffic.*
- *If you pass a motorcycle, don't pass too close or too fast.*
A blast of air can blow a motorcycle out of control.
- *Always signal your intention to turn, and look out for oncoming motorcycles.*
Allow at least a two-second following distance, so the motorcycle rider has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.
- *Always check your blind spots when changing lanes.*
- *Pay extra attention at night, when it's easier to misjudge distance.*